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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A control mechanism for a planetary manual transmission having multiple synchronizers each having a neutral position and at least one engaged position and a plurality of shift ~~rails~~ control rods adapted to move the synchronizers, said control mechanism comprising:

a plurality of slotted plate members each having a distinct slot configuration for each individual shift ~~rail~~ control rods;

a control pin aligned in each of said slot configurations in each of slotted plate members; and

means for manipulating said slotted plate members individually to enforce selective movement of said pins to thereby control at least two synchronizers into respective engaged positions; and

means for preventing movement of more than one slotted plate member at a time.

2. (currently amended): The control mechanism defined in Claim 1 further comprising:

at least one of said slotted plate members being a neutral member; and  
the remaining slotted plate members being ratio control members.

3. (currently amended): The control mechanism defined in Claim 1 further comprising:

at least four ratio control members; with at least one of said four ratio control members being a reverse ratio control member.

4. (currently amended): The control mechanism defined in Claim 3 further wherein:

at least three of said slotted plate members are each moveable to individually establish at least two forward ratios.

5. (currently amended): The control defined in Claim 1 further wherein:

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each of said slotted plate members is a substantially flat plate member; and  
said means for preventing movement of more than one slotted plate member at a time comprising each of said flat plate members having a pair of spaced longitudinal grooves that are nested when all of the plate members are positioned in a neutral position.

6. (currently amended): The control mechanism defined in Claim 5 further wherein:

each of said spaced longitudinal grooves has a predetermined depth and a movement of one of said plate members from the neutral position to a ratio position causing the remaining plate member to be moved vertically a distance equal to twice said predetermined depth.

7. (currently amended): The control mechanism defined in Claim 1 further wherein:

each of said slotted plate members ~~is a~~ are tubular structures that are individually moveable and restrained from movement by said means for preventing movement of more than one slotted plate member at a time .